



## DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative

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**Brian Billstein, Executive Director**

### Notice to Parents/Guardians

May 17, 2017

On Sunday, May 14, 2017, the DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative's Net AP program server was compromised with malicious software known as "ransomware" during a global cyberattack. The ransomware encrypted our Net AP program and files rendering the files, including student information, inaccessible and non-functioning. To the best of our knowledge, none of the student data was retrieved or viewed by the hackers. The program and student data files were encrypted by the hackers, and we were asked to pay a ransom in order for the hackers to decrypt the files allowing us access to them again. We immediately hired an expert who was able to get the student data back as well as the core program by decrypting the files back to the original format. Our expert and Instructional Technology staff believe the compromise was caused by a breach in security through our Internet provider that allowed the hackers to break into their network and access our server. Measures have been taken both by DLSEC Instructional Technology staff and our Internet provider, Education Service Center—Region 3, to try to prevent this from occurring in the future.

While the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does not require reporting such a breach, we apprised the U.S. Department of Education of this situation involving electronic files containing student information. For more information about FERPA, visit, <https://ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/ferpa/index.html>.

This notice serves as "Security Breach Notification" in compliance with CQ (Legal) and CQ (Local) in Yoakum ISD's Board Policy. Yoakum ISD's Board Policy may be accessed at <http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/396>.

Again, at this time we have no reason to believe that any student information has been accessed and/or compromised and steps are being taken to rectify the situation and prevent a future occurrence.

For more information, contact Brian Billstein, DLSEC Executive Director, at (361)293-2854.

*Si no puedes leer esta carta, por favor comuníquese con Dewitt Lavaca Special Education Cooperative y pregunta para hablar con la oficina de servicio personal.*

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